

<p style="text-align: center;">Orangeburg Need-based Roundtable Fall 2006</p>

1. What is the profile of the neediest students at your institution?

- Low income
- Low family support
- 75% female
- First generation
- Non-traditional students (over 22 years of age)
- Come from low performing high schools
- Must take remedial courses
- Students must work either full-time or part-time.
- Helping family with bills
- Come from rural areas
- Most commute instead of living on-campus
- Parents don't qualify for PLUS loan because of bad credit
- Most students bring in debt to college. They are using credit cards to pay tuition bills.
- High loan amounts
- Transportation issues
- Loan indebtedness affects life after graduation. In turn this affects society

2. How do we allow the neediest students access to colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Help student focus on academics in the 1st year. This is important to the overall success of the student graduating.
- Educate parents/students on college and financial aid process
- Neediest students aren't getting money to attend school
- No criteria for SC Need-based Grant communicated
- Change name of Need-based Grant. NBG has a bad stigma. Opportunity Grant was proposed.
- Put a "face" on Need-based Grant. This will help the General Assembly understand the population. There is already a face with the merit-based scholarships.
- Develop partnerships with high schools. Guidance Counselors encourage students to apply for merit-based scholarships. Needy students tend to apply to college later. Therefore, the counselors don't cater to them like the ones that apply early. Put more financial aid responsibility on the new EEDA person in the high schools.
- TRIO/Gear-Up help students in high school get to college.
- Some students use their merit-based aid for extra privileges (better apartment, cars, etc.)

- This population makes their college decision based upon how much financial aid is awarded to them.
- Answer starts with distribution of funds for the NBG. Legislative mandate is to award NBG to the neediest students. By federal definition, that is the students receiving the Pell Grant.
- Needy is not the same as the neediest. There could be a lawsuit because we are not awarding the NBG to the neediest students.
- Have NBG available in the summer. Most aid is only disbursed in fall and spring.
- Indiana has a scholarship that students start earning in the 9th grade. However, it is not awarded until they go to college.
- There is not much difference between a 3.0 and a 2.8 GPA. Money needs to be given to these students also.
- Do we allow the neediest students access to college instead of how.

3 . What aid is available for our neediest students?

- Pell Grant
- Loans
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Academic Competitiveness Grant
- SMART Grant
- Most schools run out of money to assist needy students
- Some schools set aside institutional aid for needy students
- State should have “matching” program for institutional dollars

4 . How do we retain the State’s neediest students at the colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Offer more scholarship and grant money
- Provide good support network on campus
- Institutions need more money for students and additional personnel
- Work with students on transition into college (especially first generation). Start in high school.
- Front load scholarship and grant money so if student drops out there is not a lot of debt
- Specific advisors for minority groups
- Provide additional scholarship money through institutional foundation
- Tutors and mentors for students
- Better partnership with high schools
- Better partnerships with Adult Education
- Graduation Gifts: incentives for success

5 . Are there special programs targeted at this population?

- Tutors and mentors for students
- Better partnership with high schools
- Better partnerships with Adult Education
- Specific advisors for minority groups
- Social Mobility: taking students who statistically shouldn't graduate from college and working with them in order for them to graduate

6 . How can the State better serve our neediest students?

- All for summer disbursement of aid
- Palmetto Fellows did not start out as an entitlement then the General Assembly found the money to fully fund the program for all students who meet the criteria. Can we do this with the Need-based Grant?
- If tuition goes up sky high at the two year institutions they will loose students. There needs to be fairness. If 20% of the State is poor then 20% of the student body should be poor.
- Figure out who is getting the Need-based Grant